THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Government did not accept the recommendations of the Steering Committee set up to assess offers in this regard as the recommendations did not take into account the factual position relating to eligibility for financial assistance from SDFC and also on account of differences of opinion amongst the members of the Committee. The Madras Port has been requested to invite fresh commercial offers for the lease/rental etc. from the same set of entrepreneurs who were prequalified earlier for this project.

Drug menace amongst the youth

1980. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that drug menace is plaguing the youth, especially the students, in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to curb the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has been continuously making efforts to educate people about the evil effects of drinking and drug abuse by publicity through mass media and also by encouraging voluntary organisations through grants to take up educative publicity.

To supplement efforts to educate people, particularly students, about the ill effects of drinking and drug abuse, the Ministry sponsored essay competitions among students at the University level. To make the educative publicity more interesting T.V. play competitions were sponsored among students at the University level.

The Ministry of Education have similarly addressed the Vice-Chancellors and the State Education Secretaries emphasising the need for exercising epecial vigil in this regard.

The State Governments have been asked to mount special vigil against the abuse of drugs in Universities/Colleges/Hostels/Campuses and to discourage students from developing any such tendency.

A proposal to enact a comprehensive legislation for exercising control over narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is under active consideration of the Government.

Uniform rates of electricity in the Country

1981. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rajadhyaksha Committee on Power had *inter alia* recommended uniform rates for the entire country for the energy sold from Central stations to State Eelectricity Boards;

(b) if so, when Government contemplate to implement the recommendation; and

(c) what are the details of other recommendations and the stage of their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has constituted a Committee to examine the question of uniform tariff for the energy supplied by National Thermal Power Corporation from Central thermal generating stations. At this stage, it is not possible to give an indication of the date by which a uniform tariff will be introduced.